



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve



March 14, 2003

Dear Reader:

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. This DEIS describes five alternatives for establishing motorized vessel quotas and associated operating requirements within the park. The DEIS was prepared in response to direction by the United States Congress as well as new operational needs since 1996.

We invite your comments on the DEIS. Your ideas and suggestions will help set vessel quotas and operating requirements that protect park resources and provide for visitor use and enjoyment.

Commenting: Specific comments on the alternatives and analysis will be most helpful. Based on your comments, a final EIS will be prepared followed by a decision. We anticipate a decision no later than January 1, 2004. Please send your written comments to:

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Vessel DEIS
C/O Nancy Swanton
EIS Project Manager
2525 Gambell Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

In addition, you may submit comments on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/glba>. Click on "Vessel Management Draft EIS" under "News and Events."

Open Houses/Public Hearings: The NPS will host informational open houses/public hearings in mid-April 2003 in the following locations: Anchorage, Juneau, Hoonah, Gustavus, Pelican, Elfin Cove, and Seattle. These meetings will be designed to facilitate dialogue between you and the NPS regarding your questions and comments on the DEIS. An informational open house will precede each public hearing. Details on time and place of the open houses/public hearings will be available on the park's website, published in local newspapers, announced on local radio, and posted in local post offices.

This is an important opportunity for you to comment on the DEIS for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Tomie Patrick Lee
Superintendent